



## Afar and Kereyu pastoralists in and around Awash National Park struggle with deteriorating livelihood conditions

A case study from Fentale (Oromyia) and Awash-Fentale (Afar) woredas **Livestock are dying: Afar and Kereyu pastoralists are desperately looking for grazing**

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### 1. Introduction and background

Between the end of May and mid-June, water and grazing stress was reported in several woredas: Afambo and Eli Daar (zone 1), Afdera (zone 2) and allover zone 3 and 5 following fighting between Afar and Issa, Kereyu and Ittu. The situation has reached a critical point in Awash-Fentale woreda (zone 3) where animals are dying, cattle and even drought resistant camels because of harsh grazing conditions. Twenty camel and cattle carcasses were observed near the hot springs in the Awash National Park. This situation is not limited to Awash Fentale woreda. The Kereyu (Oromo pastoralists) are suffering equally from drought conditions and insecurity in the neighboring woreda Fentale and Boset (Oromiya Region). Even the Afar admitted that the Oromo are facing difficulties from similar conditions.

Compared to the situation one month ago, sudden changes are being observed as the situation quickly starts to deteriorate. The turning point occurred in mid-June when livestock started to die.

Stress indicators first detected in early June are the following:

?? High concentration of livestock was observed around all water points: i.e. i-In Guyah situated halfway along the Afdera road, along Awash River banks in Dubti and Assaita and allover zone 3.

?? Animals and humans were concentrating together around half-full water ponds for consumption due to water scarcity.

?? In zone 3, the conflict between the Afar and Issa disturbshortened livestock movements and changed the labour division between men and women by creating the need for men to accompany the herds for protection.

?? Livestock was weak due to the daily long distance walk between grazing and watering points.

?? Livestock marketing was virtually stopped due to the poor condition of the animals.

?? Traditional coping mechanisms were particularly active, like firewood and charcoal processing, providing an alternative source of income to pastoralists.

2?? Women were preparing a mixture of sugar, milk or powdered milk together with coffee shells to feed small children and babies.

## 2. Mission findings Awash – Metehara mMission findings

### 2.1 Afar Region :-

#### 2.2 a) Awash Fentale woreda

All six of the kebeles in Awash Fentale woreda are affected by drought ~~conditions~~. Dry spell effects have been compounded by the surrounding conflict with Oromo pastoralists that are the, Kereyu and the Ittu. According to extrapolated figures from a 1996 census by the Central Statistic Authority<sup>1</sup> calculated at a 3% annual growth rate, Awash - Fentale woreda population has reached a total of about 24,000 people with 12,000 in the rural areas (6 kebeles, see detailed data below) and over 10,000 in Awash town.

**Table 111111111: Population in Awash Fentale woreda<sup>1</sup>**

<u>Zone/Woreda/Kebele</u>	<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>No. of HH</b>
<b>Breakdown by kebele:</b>				
Sabure	4,231	2,324	1,907	876
Boloyita	1,148	585	563	216
Deho	1,581	787	794	341
Kebena	1,205	703	502	229
Dudub	800	418	382	199
Awash National Park	944	514	430	199
<b>Awash Fentale woreda total</b>	<b>9,909</b>	<b>5,331</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>2,060</b>
<b>AFAR REGION</b> <u>Afar Region total</u>	<b>1,012,305</b>	<b>577,416</b>	<b>434,889</b>	<b>168,482</b>

Concerns are that livestock are in such a weakened state that any disease would kill them at the present time. Fortunately, no specific animal disease outbreak has been reported in the woreda. On June 19, a development agent based in Doho kebele sent a report to the woreda administration estimating three cattle deaths daily in the woreda and 10 animal deaths per family. A further threat is the expected long rains (*karima*), as most pastoralists believe the animals will not survive the season due to excessive moisture stress and pneumonia. Furthermore, animal vaccinations in Doho, Sabure and Boulaita kebeles did not cover the entire livestock population. At this stage, animal health staff present in the woreda is limited to one animal health assistant and five technicians based in Doho (1), Boulaita (1) and Awash (3). In order to offer a better infrastructure, CARE has started to build a new veterinary clinic.

Usually pastoral groups are migrating into the Fentale highlands for grazing or in small pockets like Alideke located in the Awash National Park. Groups based in *Kabana* kebele

<sup>1</sup> "Population of Kebelesfarmers' associations by sex in Afar Region's rural areas (CSA 1996)."

migrate to Argobba area or even farther out. During the wet season, pastoralists take advantage of the Alta hillside, a place with good drainage in the Fentale mountains, for grazing in the west in order to minimize the risk of bovine pneumonia in weak animals. For the dry season, the usual pattern of movement is to drive livestock to the *kalou* around Doho, Sabure, Boulaita and Kabana kebele. If it is dry, they usually go back to the hillside. Only few migrations outside the woreda have been reported recently, as pastoralists are limited in their movements by the ongoing conflicts.

Along the border of Awash-Fentale in locations like Madala, Semain and Safi that are exclusively under the control of the Afar, there have been no incidences reported from the conflict and therefore no grazing restrictions, although, at this stage they cannot extend livestock movements outside of this area like they would do during peaceful periods. Due to overgrazing, Safi for example has been unable to keep but a small amount of grass. Also around the hot springs and the Kesem River, aquatic grasses ~~(hamelto and daram)~~ have been harvested to feed weak animals. The rey is very little aquatic grass remaining and it is not accessible.

## **2.2 The present situation**

*a) ~~A~~round Awara Melka State farm north of Awash National Park ~~bordering the Kesem River~~*

near Awara Melka State farm is as follows:

?? Cattle and camels are dying, with 20 carcasses observed in Bonti Guna (Doho kebele), a place located near the hot springs. In order to feed their livestock, pastoralists are resorting to cutting down bushes and trees branches.

?? The usual coping mechanisms are starting to be exhausted as most of the people are surviving mainly by selling dumdoum palm leaves and dumdoum fruits sold in bag. Prices of such items have diminished drastically such as dumdoum palms going from 6 to 2 birrETB for a bundle.

?? ~~—~~ Deteriorated terms of trade were observed on the market. Sheep and goats are being sold in Awash for between 30 and 40 birrETB while at the same time food prices are increasing. Within a three-month period, maize prices rose from 0.5 to 1.5 birrETB per kg, sugar from 4 to 5.5 birrETB per kg. A tin of Nido (milk powder), highly appreciated by pastoralists when their animals are dry, rose from 21 to 30 birrETB and on Thursday July 4 in was out of stock in Awash shops.

?? In Awara Melka in Sabure kebele, prices reached a similar level. Maize flour sold at 1.4 birrETB per kg and 1.5 birrETB for millet. Oil is rather expensive selling between 9 and 12 birrETB per liter and Nido is not available in the shops.

?? As far as migration and pastoral groups splitting are concerned, no significant changes in movements have been noticed, as pastoralists are not able to move to better grazing areas due to the security conditions around Awash National Park. Large concentrations of livestock have been observed around the hot springs and all water points. In previous times livestock used to move to Kabana kebele but now it is not possible due to the recent fighting with the Kereyu.

?? According to elders and pastoralists met in Bonti Guna in a permanent settlement visited on Wednesday July 3 in Doho kebele, among some 2000 people in the kebele, 1000 are caring for animals around the hot springs and elsewhere, 500 are remaining in the settlement and 500 left for urban areas or around irrigated agriculture schemes

looking for casual work. The last figure could be exaggerated, as pastoralists tend to incorporate members of their clan living away from their home area into their calculations. Among the 500 people declared living away from their home area, some members of the group are regularly settled and do bring support to their relatives and kinship.

??? Milk availability within settlements appears to be one of the main issues. Families have not relied on cow <sup>s</sup>-milk for the past three months, either for their children or for marketing. Goat milk is also not available. The little camel milk remaining appears to be insufficient for fulfilling social obligations of sharing milking animals (~~hantilla~~) and for the normal custom offering camel milk free to all kin-men, affiliates and even outsiders. Due to the scarcity of camel milk, it is being restricted to only the family members, particularly children.

?? — As far as nutrition is concerned, only one child with a distended belly has been observed, usually the sign of intestinal parasites. Similar to observations in Dulecha of Amibara woreda in early June, except for the absence of goat milk, babies are being fed with a mixture of coffee shells, sugar and milk powder as a breast-feeding substitute.

??? In the Awash dispensary, vaccinations' drop out rate didn't reach a significant level as most of the patients are coming from urban areas and surrounding villages.

#### *b) In and around Awash town*

??? Numerous livestock in poor condition surround urban areas. Water for both human and animal consumption is scarce and critical~~the biggest issue~~. As the urban water pipe distribution system is <sup>2</sup>-under rehabilitation, water is pumped directly from the Awash River and currently sold for 3 ~~birr~~ETB for a 25-liter jerry can.

??? Livestock watering facilities set up near a plaster factory has stopped providing water. Water is exclusively used for the factory and animals do not benefit anymore from the surplus. This situation has forced pastoralists to drive their cattle down the Awash gorge, an additional walk rather difficult for weak animals. Also at the watering point, carcasses are seen near the river.

In the settlements, pastoralists are now facing a shortage of cash and are finding it difficult to purchase grain, sugar and other essential items like oil and milk powder. Even men have said that they are restraining from chewing khat. The pastoralist diet has incorporated palm fruits with water and grain. The mission was told that dumdoum palm fruits saved the lives of some people for the past 8 months. Additionally, some pastoralists have already lost a large part of their livestock. One previously well to do pastoralist, Isse Elema, claims he lost 90% of his animals. Woreda livestock technicians have estimated the overall loss at an average of 40% of the total livestock.

### **2.3 Oromiya Region :- Fentale woreda**

#### *-a) Kereyu areas*

For the Kereyu in ~~woreda~~-Fentale woreda (East Shewa zone, Oromiya Region-) and ~~in-to~~ a lesser extend-extent in the neighboring ~~woreda~~-woreda Boset, the situation appears rather serious. Theas the area has not~~didn't received~~get rain since August 2001 and is facing a water shortage, ~~-since August 2001-~~when The-~~generally~~area has generally-erratic rains are

<sup>2</sup> 35 millions ~~birr~~ETB have been allocated to the present urban water supply project.

experienced. ~~but this year Fentale woreda is facing water shortage. This has resulted in Even some bore holes boreholes are drying up and important livestock movements have been movements as far as recorded up to Wonji on to the west and Sheshamane to the south. Furthermore, According to some pastoralists rough estimation, estimate that starting in June as much as 45% of the livestock died, the breaking point for animal death took place in June.~~

Fentale woreda is currently composed of 20 ~~kebeles~~Peasants Associations (PAs), 18 rural and two urban kebeles: Metahara and Addis Katama

**Table 2: Population in Fentale Woreda<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Breakdown by kebele :</b>	<b>No. of HH</b>	
<b>8 pure pastoralist kebeles</b>		
Fentale Debit	264	1,584
Haro-karsa	1,986	11,911
Ilala-karari	394	2,364
Tututi	349	2,090
Dega-du	274	2,017
Kobo	267	1,604
Banti- Mogasa	645	3,865
		<del>3865</del>
Galcha-Ajotar	596	3,581
<b>7 Agro-pastoralist kebeles</b>		
Kanifa	550	3,294
Fate Ledi	238	1,425
Sara-weba	379	2,267
Gidara-kubi	1,003	6,020
Diresaden	339	1,927
Godo-Fafate	201	1,311
Turo-Badanota	317	1,900
<b>3 Settled agro-pastoralist kebeles</b>		
Gara-dima	213	1,280
Golala	256	1,794
Algea	105	374
<b>Total</b>	<b>8376</b>	<b>50608</b>

**Table 3: CSA, The 1994 Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia<sup>2</sup>**

	<b>Both Sexes</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Fentale woreda total</b>	60048	31638	28410
urban	11934	5837	6097
rural	48290	25882	22408

“The Kereyu, who have been the indigenous inhabitants of the Metehara Plain and Mount Fentale area are Oromo-speaking transhumant pastoralists. Apart from livestock herding, the Kereyu who inhabit certain home neighborhoods, have also started practicing both rain-fed and irrigated agriculture. This is a recent but growing tendency, which emerged in the early 1980s and has continued to develop since. It began mainly as a response to the expropriation of their pastoral land and the subsequent weakening of their pastoral means of livelihood” (Ayalew Gebre, 2001, p. 83).

<sup>1</sup> Woreda administration for the breakdown per kebele, 1994 data

<sup>2</sup> CSA, Results for Oromiya Region, Vol. 1, Part 1, p. 16.

Fentale Woreda Council has provided different figures for 1994:

Rural	24,276		
Urban	14,116		
Total	38,392	extrapolated data for 2002	3% 48634
Labour factory	28,677		28677
Total	67,069		77311

At this stage, stress indicators observed by the woreda administration are mostly related to poor livestock condition and animal deaths, although, some additional indicators were reported. People have been seen migrating and pastoralist families have split up in order to save part of their livestock by moving them to areas with better conditions. Usually camels are sent south to *Shashemene* and, according to the woreda administrator, for the first time goats and sheep were brought up to Wonji. As far as marketing is concerned, more animals than normal are currently being sold as well as more firewood is reaching urban areas.

Three months ago, because of the persistent dry conditions in the woreda, a special report was sent to the zonal administration. Consequently, a zonal assessment team was sent to the area resulting in the delivery of relief food in June 2002. 170.7 MT of maize was distributed in 8 kebeles and in addition 400 MT from DPPB Oromiya will be arriving soon. Moreover, in May, a month after issuing the Fentale special report, four trucks were provided by DPPB to transport sugar cane tops to the pastoral areas. Similarly, CARE transported sugar cane tops to feed livestock for 20 days and also hired four trucks for fodder trucking. CARE has now stopped trucking as they no longer have funding for transport. Additionally, the Metehara sugar cane factory is closed for maintenance.

In Fentale, a mostly agro-pastoral woreda, stress indicators are also related to agricultural cycles and techniques. Ten months without rain in an area where even during good seasons, rains remain erratic has forced farmers to adopt new strategies. Peasants are now sowing in June at the end of the dry season, in order to benefit from possible showers. Along the road between Metahara and Awash, the mission interviewed a farmer who was sowing teff at the end of the dry season.

Moreover, those Kereyu pastoralists who have relatives to the south have started to move with some unexpected migrations close to Arsi. Other movements have taken place to the west up to the Wonji sugar cane plantation near Nazareth. The neighboring Boset woreda still remains the main destination as was observed by the mission through the amount of camels that were seen along the road. The Agricultural Office in Metehara also confirmed that camels from Fentale woreda are actually in Gari Kebele in Boset woreda. Watering animals in Welenchiti, also in Boset woreda, is actually one of the main concerns even during a normal dry season. The River Tabo is dry and pastoralists have to walk within a radius of 10 km (three-hour walk) to bring their livestock to the Welenchiti water point. In this area, cattle can receive water every two days at a cost of 1 ETB per barrel (200 liters). In addition, there are two boreholes along the road before Metehara. 14 boreholes have been drilled in Fentale woreda and 5 are dried up, according to Agricultural Office's experts.

Population: (1987 Ethiopian calendar)

Rural	24,276
Urban	14,116
Total	38,392
Labour factory	28,677
Total	67,069

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response to the expropriation of their pastoral land and the subsequent weakening of their pastoral means of livelihood” (Ayalew Gebre, 2001:83).

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Moreover, in May, a month after issuing the Fentale special report, four trucks ~~have been given~~ were provided by DPPB to transport sugar cane tops to the pastoral areas. Similarly, CARE transported sugar cane tops to feed livestock for 20 days and ~~On his side,~~ CARE ~~has~~ also hired four trucks ~~used~~ for fodder trucking. ~~CARE has now stopped trucking as they no longer have funding for transport.~~ Additionally, the Metehara sugar factory ~~For about 20 days, trucks have transported sugar cane tops to feed livestock. Since three weeks Metehara factory is closed for maintenance and CARE is out of funds for transport.~~

In a mostly agro-pastoral woreda, stress indicators are also related to agriculture cycles and techniques. Ten months without rain in an area where even during good seasons, rains remain erratic ~~has encouraged~~ forced farmers to build ~~farmers’~~ new strategies ~~y~~. Peasants are ~~now getting use to~~ sowing in June at the end of the dry season, in order to benefit from ~~any possible showers~~ opportunity. Along the road between Metehara and Awash, ~~we have~~ the mission interviewed a farmer ~~who was sowing teff at the end of the dry season.~~ Originally coming from Karakurkura along the road to Metehara, this Amhara farmer is ~~actually~~ engaged in crop sharing with a businesswoman based in Metehara. Last year ~~already~~ most of the harvest failed ~~as in the area has got only~~ as they received only one-day rain in July and ~~a second~~ another one in August. ~~Our interlocutor~~ This farmer, who came in ~~to~~ the area in 1991 initially to work in the sugar cane factory, was unable to find work. ~~Therefore,~~ facing unemployment, he tried to set up a petty trade activity ~~and~~, which failed. ~~Having some agricultural skill, he,~~ then ~~he~~ decided to ~~go for agriculture as he has got some skill~~ work as a farmer.

Moreover, ~~those Kereyu’s~~ pastoralists ~~who have relatives to the south~~ have started to move with some unexpected migrations ~~to the south~~ close to Arsi, ~~by the Arsi for those with relatives or kinship.~~ Other movements have taken place to the west up to ~~the~~ Wonji sugar cane plantation near Nazareth. ~~Th~~The neighboring Boset ~~Woreda~~ woreda still remains the main destination ~~as was observed by the mission through the~~ and a lot amount of camels ~~could be~~ that were seen along the road. ~~The Office of Agriculture in Metehara also has mentioned~~ confirmed that camels from Fentale woreda are actually in ~~Gari Kebele in Boset woreda kebele Gari (Boset).~~ ~~Watering animals in Welenchiti, also in~~ (Boset woreda,) is actually one of the main concerns ~~even during a normal dry season.~~ Actually

The River Tabo is dry and pastoralists have to take into account a watering radius of 10 km and a minimum of three-hour walk to drive their livestock to the Welenchiti water point. In this area, cattle can receive water every two days and water at a cost of 1 birr/ETB per barrel (200 liters). In addition, there are two boreholes along the road before Metehara. 14 boreholes have been drilled in Fentale woreda and 5 are dried up, according to Office of Agriculture experts. Assessment team didn't get the time to check on the spot the boreholes' issue.

Goal, an Irish NGO, currently involved in human health projects in Fentale woreda are currently working in 16 kebeles with 13 clinics. They have noticed quite a significant level of EPI drop out comparing to last year at during the same period. Such This situation is giving an indication of the level of migrations linked with the stress caused by drought conditions.

Gudina Tumsa Foundation (GTF), a local NGO involved in education, has similarly noticed quite a significant level of school drop-out. In one school supported by the project, 36% of the primary school pupils registered in September 2001 didn't attend to the final exams in June 2002, comparing to the 10% drop out during the previous year with respective contingents of 250 and 200 pupils.

In terms of Early Warnings caution; (EWS), it has been pointed out that in all pastoral areas affected, and the remaining animals might die at the beginning of the raining season due to the stress occasioned due to moisture stress and pneumonia. At this stage, there is not enough grain in the woreda and milk and ghee are not available anymore in the pastoralist settlements. Land further supports it was suggested to add vegetable oil as a substitute, because milk and ghee are not any more available in the pastoralists settlements for ghee. According to the Goal medical coordinator, children the nutritional status of children seems to be still acceptable, but further nutritional surveys are required in the next few weeks should to monitor the situation, take place in the coming weeks as a priority. On the other hand, a reports were received that has mentioned about 12 lactating women deaths died not noting without mention in the cause of the death. Therefore, it has not been determined if these deaths could be related to (nutritional status and related diseases or AIDS?).

*-b) Kereyu pastoralists situation around Merti sugar cane plantation*

Six pastoralists kebele are situated around the sugar cane plantation: Lady, Fat lady, Kanifa, Saraweva, Galeha and Gola. Over eight pastoral kebeles are affected by drought conditions. There out of the total are currently 118 kebeles currently in the woreda. Six of these eight the agro-pastoralist and pastoralist kebeles are situated around the sugar cane plantation: Ledi, Fate Ledi, Kanifa, Saraweva, Galcha and Gola. Competition for resources and fighting with the Afar is not limited to the Awash National Park. At the end of June, four Afar were have been killed and one Kereyu died in the hills south-east of Ledi's kebele. Within the plantation, security and free access to sugar cane tops is assured by kereyu guards appointed by the sugar factory.

"Hostilities among the nomadic pastoral groups in this region have largely been aggravated by the expansion of large scale irrigated agriculture and an extensive network of conservation areas for game/tourist parks. The Afar and Arsi Oromo have long been

traditional enemies of the ~~Karrayu~~ Kereyu, Ittu and Issa Somali. On the other hand, the ~~Karrayu~~ Kereyu have enjoyed peaceful relationships with the Ittu and Issa Somali mainly as a result of their goal of solidarity against their common enemies the Afar and Arsi Oromo” (Ayalew Gebre, 2001, p. :82).

Kereyu pastoralists have developed sophisticated coping mechanisms taking advantage of the irrigated sugar cane plantation. Livestock, ~~cattle~~ mainly cattle are concentrated around Merti sugar cane plantation (Metehara) and are currently residing/parked under the shade of nearby trees’ shadow. Carcasses and dying animals were visible up to surrounding areas of up to the plantation’s surrounding area. In Kanifa PAs Kebele, a pastoralist testified to having lost four all calves and four milking cows among a total of nine. and all calves and similar situations have been reported in the other ~~visited~~ PAs visited.

Pastoralists are entitled to use sugar cane tops freely but since for the past month, the Metehara sugar factory has been closed for maintenance. Up to Up to this point, now they get since the plantation’s workers were busy with seedlings, some sugar cane tops were obtained as plantation’s workers are busy with seedlings. But in August at after the end of agriculture activities/work, no sugar cane tops will be available until up to October, then when sugar production resumes. Beside sugar cane tops, pastoralists also have also access to some grass growing along the irrigation canals, a resource shared with the highlanders workers resident in of the plantation camp who also have. Those have also some livestock to feed.

Despite ~~of~~ the fact that pastoralists are taking advantage of the nearby sugar cane plantation, it has to be mentioned-noted that the entire whole agriculture scheme has taken the best of the Kereyu grazing land and water resources, as as sugar cane plantation is in need of much an abundant supply of water to operate. Paradoxically, a few kilometers ahead above way way, constant the water level rise of Lake Beseka (Metehara) rises and is invading yearly a new three square kilometers surface yearly, mostly rangelands.

~~Comparing~~ Compared to the Afar, the Kereyu are using a more intensive model of pastoralism during dry spells. They have organize d a “cut and carry” system to bring to their animals grass and straw grazing resources and preserve them animals from long and tired exhausting walks. Nevertheless, for those pastoralists settled around the sugar cane plantations, available cutting grass will be in not sufficient to feed their animals. They also need hay and food complements for the animals (e.g. minerals) survival, as well as on the human side. The people they consider food and particularly food for children and herds men as key-needs.

#### -c) High contrasted situation on Metehara Livestock Market

The

Metehara livestock market takes place weekly on Tuesday and already for several since months, the Kereyu are only playing a minor role at this time of the year as compared to normal. Actually, local emaciated cattle are actually sold on an average of 150 – 200 birr/ETB per head. Sheep and goats are currently sold at 30 to 60 birr/ETB per head.

Even worset, traders are buying cattle in poor condition cattle directly in the settlements for 50 birr/ETB, and then they truck them out of the area to be fed.

On

~~On the~~ the Metehara livestock market, ploughing oxen prices are increasing, meat oxen from Western Hararghe are stable ~~whereas~~ prices for local ~~skinnyemaciated~~ cattle are decreasing. ~~showing This~~ clearly ~~indicates~~ that local livestock ~~doesn't count much within the transactions is not the main part of on an important the~~ market supplying urban areas up to Addis Ababa. Animals are trucked from West Hararghe to the market and, after transactions ~~are finished~~, other trucks ~~will~~ bring them to Nazareth and Addis Ababa. Healthy meat oxen prices can reach up to 1400 ~~birr~~ETB and ploughing oxen are sold for 1100 up to 1500 ~~birr~~ETB. Nevertheless, such "off-shore" market has limitations and traders are pointing out the ~~high cost of to fed~~ animal's ~~feeding on the spot in the marketplace~~, as oil cakes are sold from 30 to 100 ~~birr~~ETB a quintal.

In Welenchiti (Boset woreda), ~~the~~ livestock market ~~takes place is open~~ on Saturday and similarly, animals are ~~actually~~ not in good condition for marketing. Even agro-pastoralists started to sell small animals, shoat from 30 to 60 ~~birr~~ETB per head for young males. For the time being, all over the area surveyed, only males are marketed.

#### d) Situation in Boset woreda

With a population of about 160,000 people, Boset woreda is divided into 33 kebeles (3 pastoralists, 30 agro-pastoralists). Since March 2002, the three pastoral kebeles have been ~~put underreceiving~~ relief and ~~such distributionthis situation~~ is planned ~~to continue to go through up to~~ September. ~~Relief fFood-relief~~ is channeled ~~by-through~~ EGS ~~mainly with road maintenance and water ponds construction-projects. The Early Warning Committees at woreda and kebele level participate in -pProject identification-has involved the Early Warning Committees at woreda and kebele level. Relief under EGS programs concerns mainly road maintenance and water ponds construction projects.~~

~~World Vision (WV) in Garinuzareda, Adetcha and Tuledimtu and Berta Wagare and Christian Children Fund (CCF) in Bochota are implementing EGS projects. Two NGOs currently working in the woreda are in charge of the implementation. World Vision (WV) in kebele Garinuzareda, Adetcha and Tuledimtu and a fourth one started to get relief in June: Berta Wagare with a population of 745 people and 100 households. On the other side, Christian Children Fund (CCF) took responsibility of EGS projects in kebele Bochota. Up to now, work has gone on for four months and two food distributions took place. The beneficiary population in the four kebeles has reached a total of 1,170 households and 5,262 people.~~

In Boset woreda, ~~Kk~~ereyu livestock migration ~~concern both animals passing up to lake Ziway in Arsi zone. The mission also witnessed camel herds that were on the move from Metahara towards Nazret that is very unusual. as well as unusual camels migration roaming all along the area. CLong unusual cattle from Metehara (~70km away) movements and arrivedals in Bosefrom Metehara have been observed. TAll this migratory livestockese~~ movements are ~~due to~~related with serious grazing shortage in Fentale woreda. Despite of the important ~~such~~ livestock influx, the ~~Office of Agricultural Officee~~ in Welenchiti did ~~neithem't~~ get any report ~~of unusual animal diseaseabout sudden outbreaks apartof animal diseases ahead~~ from ~~usual~~ the endemic ones, ~~n-~~ Nor reports ~~onabout~~ animal

deaths ~~as well~~. Water supply ~~remains a the first priority~~ priority, as all water ponds ~~as well as the nearby Tabo River~~ are dry, ~~as well as the nearby river Tabo~~.

Along the road between Welenchiti and Metehara, Karakurkura (Amhara Region, woreda Minjar, North Showa) with a non-Oromo population mixed Christians and Muslims is a good example of private water dam management. There, outsiders are not allowed to come for watering animals. At the time of our visit, about 250 heads of livestock were roaming around the water pool. According to some Amhara pastoralists interviewed near the water point, livestock is also suffering from drought conditions. The pond is their ultimate local source of water solution and only rains save can avoid livestock from to dying and further movements. The nearest market town where they use to sell their animals is Hararti, where traders from Nazaret and Addis are regularly coming. The actual cattle prices are currently fixed between 150 up to 500 ~~birr~~ ETB.

### 3. Conclusions and Recommendations

Obviously, Afar Region as well as all its margins rangelands have now reached the first step of what could be in a few weeks -times a major emergency- food stage of the crisis. Moreover, the Drought Monitoring Center Centre in Nairobi predicts indicates below-normal rainfall for north-eastern Ethiopia, including the Afar Region during the coming karima long rain weather -perspectives with an increased likelihood of below normal rainfall for northeastern Ethiopia, including the Afar Region during the coming karima long rain- (FEWS 8/7/02). This weather forecast Such pessimistic perspectives should alert all agencies and allow them to plan emergency assistance ahead to the area. Even if at this stage it remains difficult to assess the situation in detail and to differentiate the main parameters of the present crisis, drought conditions, insecurity and low-economic performances have contributed to making most of the Afar food insecure and/or borderline since years. As well, it is also ways difficult to differentiate between chronic and acute food insecurity vulnerability as far as food security concept is concerned. For the time being, livestock has been seriously affected in zone 1, 2, 3 and 5 and even since a few days there is now and there some evidence that people start to ~~of effects in term of~~ lack of food and casual appearance of human malnutrition cases. but such rough indications have ~~should to be reassessed more carefully, particularly for the children~~.

Communities met are all reporting that animal feed constitutes their first priority, followed by relief food. DPPC has already dispatched 3,600 MT of food aid to the Afar Region as well as 570 MT to the neighboring neighbouring Fentale woreda, with ~~with~~ some complains in Metehara related to the quality of the supplied maize.

“Saving the breeding stock will ultimately determine the scale of the current crisis and the pace of post-drought recovery, given the very high dependency on livestock in the above areas. Without protecting and preserving pastoralist livelihoods, pastoralists are likely to quickly become highly food insecure, forced to reduce consumption below acceptable standards and dispose of their animals as productive assets, thereby undermining their future food security.” (FEWS-NET Food security warning 8/7/2002)

#### a) General measures to be implemented

Discussions during the second week of July among important stakeholders following concerning the Afar crisis let to the meetings on Emergency Crisis in Afar hold during the second week of July, following recommendations and measures that should have been taken:

(1)

According to FEWS, malnutrition is expected at the end of July. F; food aid as well as supplementary feeding (SF) or therapeutic feeding (TF) might be necessary after precise nutritional assessments have been carried out in the region.

(2)

According to unfavourable pessimistic weather forecast, prediction up to September, preparations should be made for further emergency interventions stages have to be made.

(3)

With immediate non-food interventions within the affected areas of Afar region and neighbouringsurrounding areas, it is still possible to save part of the livestock, which will contribute to save human lives.

(4)

Small-scale projects with an immediate and visible output (water, animal health or feed supply like concentrates, conserved fodder, residues, etc.) should be pushed.

Such projects should be implemented by NGOs already active in the Region.

(5)

UN-agencies are preparing emergency agreed to come up with project proposals for funding in co-ordination and cooperation with their UN, NGO and governmental counterparts in the UN, NGOs and Governmental Bodies.

The present Actual crisis should also be an opportunity to launch be used for longer-term activities in Afar region such as promotion: essentially training and information programmes in various sectors such as: alphabetisation and literacy, water and sanitation, human and animal health, animal marketing and; off-pastoralism income diversification opportunities.

#### *b) Specific sectoral measures to be implemented*

Food Immediate short term interventions ???????? In order to reach immediate needs, following items could be provided quickly:

- Sugar is an important item for the local diet and Afar food habits and prices have increased from about 25%.
- Vegetable oil could be an important substitute to the present lack of milk produce, mainly ghee, common butter preparation used by most of the pastoralists.
- Maize has also recently face significant prices increase like in Awash, where in about three months time, maize price rises from 0.5 to 1.5 birr ETB per kg, that is to say a 200% increase.
- Despite the prescriptions related to milk powder use, nutritionist experts should decide if local to nutritional coping mechanisms for babies (sugar, milk powder and coffee shells) has to be supported.
- An other priority should concern animal health with intensification of vaccination for selected location and animals in order to save the better one, mainly the breeding and

lactating livestock. In general, assessment has noticed a regional shortage of vet drugs. On another hand, additional food and mineral lick might contribute to animal health and could represent a immediate support. Actually, hay is available on the market in Nazaret at a for high price, i.e. :11 ETB birr a large bundle.

~~**Recommendations**~~ Further rRecommendations could be

#### **Food and Health**

In order to reach immediate needs, the **following food items could be provided quickly:**

(1)

**Sugar** is an important item for the local diet and Afar food habits and prices have increased from about 25%. (2)

**Vegetable oil** could be an important substitute to the present lack of milk produce, mainly- *ghee*, common butter preparation used by most of the pastoralists. (3)

**Maize** has also recently faced significant prices increases for example ~~like~~ in Awash town, where during the lastin about three months time, prices for maize price roseises from 0.5 to 1.5 ETB/~~per~~ kg, that is ~~to say~~ a 200% increase. Therefore with the crisis affected population segments cannot afford to buy maize anymore. (4)

Despite strict prescriptions related to **milk powder** use, nutritionist experts should decide how far food aid could be adjusted according to local diet and nutritional coping mechanisms for babies (sugar, milk powder and coffee shells) to be supported.

#### Water

In terms of water intervention, water tankers should be provided selectively as well as elsewhere cash or food for work programs could contribute to livestock water facilities maintenance as well as water points for human consumption. Additionally, the key question of conflict in zone 3 between Afar and Issa and Kereyu and Ittu over water resources should be addressed.

#### Livestock

In terms of interventions to save livestock, (1) **selective interventions**

~~inAn animal health~~ constitutes another priority. By ~~should concern animal health with selective interventions~~ providing supportive treatments including vaccination and de-worming ~~in order to save~~ at least the breeding and the lactating livestock could be saved.

In general, there is ~~aassessment has noticed a regional~~ shortage of veterinary drugs in the region. (2)

**Emergency control of animal epidemics** including regional cross-border campaign upon outbreak as well as community-based local disease surveillance could increase emergency related outbreaks detection. (3)

In the meantime, **additional food and mineral lick** might contribute to animal health and could represent an immediate support. Actually, hay is available on the market in Nazaret at a high price, i.e. 11 ETB a large bundle.

(4)

~~In terms of livestock support, animal health intervention should provide supportive treatment including vaccination and de worming. Supplementary feeding of targeted animals might contribute to save breeding animals.~~

Animal feed and rangeland management interventions could bring feed supply (concentrates conserved fodder, residues) for specific animals (lactating and breeding animals). (5) Furthermore, it is essential to **address issues of local conflict over resources** and to allow temporary access of livestock to National Parks and state ranches. (6)

**Livestock marketing interventions** ~~should~~ contribute to subsidized de-stocking and on the ~~a~~ more long run, ~~they~~ make market information available to all stakeholders through an information sharing system. ~~On another hand, destocking / restocking interventions could be linked with subsidized market facilitation: subsidy to traders as they are working in non-demand driven scenario.~~

~~-On another hand, emergency control of epidemics including regional cross-border campaign upon outbreak as well as community-based local disease surveillance has to be increased to detect emergency related outbreaks.~~

~~-In terms of water intervention, water tankers should be provided selectively as well as elsewhere cash or food for work programs could contribute to livestock water facilities maintenance. Additionally, the key question of local conflict over water resources should be addressed.~~

~~-Animal feed and rangeland management interventions could bring feed supply (concentrates conserved fodder, residues) for specific animals (lactating and breeding animals). Furthermore, it is essential to address issues of local conflict over resources and to allow temporary access of livestock to National Parks and state ranches.~~

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~~Following meetings on Emergency Crisis in Afar hold during the second week of July:~~

~~? UN agencies agreed to come up with project proposals in co-ordination with their counterparts in the UN, NGOs and Governmental Bodies.~~

~~? With non-food interventions within Afar region and surrounding areas, it is still possible to save part of the livestock, which will contribute to save human lives.~~

~~? Small-scale projects with a immediate and visible output (water, animal health or feed supply like concentrates, conserved fodder, residues, etc..) should be pushed.~~

~~? Such projects should be implemented by NGOs already active in the Region.~~

~~? According to FEWS, malnutrition is expected at the end of July; food aid as well as SF or TF might be necessary after precise nutritional assessments.~~



- ~~? According to pessimistic weather forecast prediction up to September, preparations for further intervention stages have to be made.~~
- ~~? Actual crisis is an opportunity to be used for long term action promotion: essentially training and information in various sectors: literacy, water and sanitation, human and animal health, animal marketing, off-pastoralism income opportunities.~~

#### **4. Annex**

## **Abbreviations**

<a href="#">ACF</a>	<a href="#">Action Ccontre la Faim</a>
<a href="#">APDA</a>	<a href="#">Afar Pastoralists Development Association</a>
<a href="#">CARE</a>	<a href="#">Cooperatives for Assistance and Relief Everywhere</a>
<a href="#">CCF</a>	<a href="#">Christian Children Fund</a>
<a href="#">DPPC</a>	<a href="#">Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission (Federal Government level)</a>
<a href="#">DPPB</a>	<a href="#">Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Bureau (Regional level)</a>
<a href="#">DPPD</a>	<a href="#">Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Department (Zonal level)</a>
<a href="#">EGS</a>	<a href="#">Employment Ggeneration Schemesystem</a>
<a href="#">EPI</a>	<a href="#">Programme Iimmunisation</a>
<a href="#">ETB</a>	<a href="#">Ethiopian Birr</a>
<a href="#">EWS</a>	<a href="#">Early Warning System</a>
<a href="#">FEWS</a>	<a href="#">Famine Early Warning System</a>
<a href="#">GTF</a>	<a href="#">Gudina Tumsa -Ffoundation (local NGO)</a>
<a href="#">MSF</a>	<a href="#">Médecins Sans Frontières</a>
<a href="#">MT</a>	<a href="#">Metric Ttone</a>
<a href="#">NGO</a>	<a href="#">Non-Governmental-Organisation</a>
<a href="#">OSSREA,</a>	<a href="#">Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa</a>
<a href="#">SF</a>	<a href="#">Supplementary Feeding</a>
<a href="#">TF</a>	<a href="#">Therapeutic Feeding</a>
<a href="#">UNDP</a>	<a href="#">United Nations Development Programme</a>
<a href="#">UN-EUE</a>	<a href="#">United Nations Emergencies Unit for Ethiopia</a>
<a href="#">WFP</a>	<a href="#">World Food Programme</a>

## **DISCLAIMER**

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of the UN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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## **Glossary**

### **Meteorological Drought Defined**

Drought is a period of insufficient water initiated by reduced precipitation. The impacts of drought on crops and society are critical but not easily quantified. The result is that "drought" does not have a universal definition. "Meteorological drought" is defined as a sustained period of deficient precipitation with a low frequency of occurrence. While crops may be damaged by lack of precipitation and high temperatures in just a few days, such short periods are not considered to be meteorological droughts. A three-month period is defined by the American Meteorological Society to be the shortest period that can be defined as a drought. (Source: *The American Meteorological Society*)

### **Doum - *Hyphaene thebaica***

One of the tallest palm tree widely spread in all sub-desertic areas of the Horn of Africa around watercourses like the hot springs in Awash National Park. The fruits are in large bunches and each fruit is round and about 15cm in diameter, orange-brown in a calyx cup. Fruit pulp, seed and young seedlings are edible. And from the sap of the flower shots, palm wine is produced.

### **Dadaa rains**

Local Afar expression defining few days of shower which normally occur between either in November or December.

### **Karma rains**

∴Local Afar expression defining the long rains which usually occur between Jun and September in the Afar Region of Ethiopia. They can b compared to the long kiremt rains in the neighbouring Amhara Region.

### **Meteorological Drought Defined**

Drought is a period of insufficient water initiated by reduced precipitation. The impacts of drought on crops and society are critical but not easily quantified. The result is that "drought" does not have a universal definition. "Meteorological drought" is defined as a sustained period of deficient precipitation with a low frequency of occurrence. While crops may be damaged by lack of precipitation and high temperatures in just a few days, such short periods are not considered to be meteorological droughts. A three month period is defined by the American Meteorological Society to be the shortest period that can be defined as a drought. (Source: *The American Meteorological Society*)

**Sugum rains:** Local Afar expression defining the short rains which usually occur between March and April in the Afar Region of Ethiopia. They can b compared to the short berg rains in the neighbouring Amhara highlands.

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